

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ACCRA 06468 091451Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 /095 W  
-----013485 100443Z /16

R 091016Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5010  
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 6468

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV,GH  
SUBJ: BAR ASSOCIATION CRITICIZES SMC AS CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION MEETS

1. SUMMARY: WHILE THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) IS MOVING AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS FOR DRAFTING CONSTITUTION FOR TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION IS SURFACING TO AKUFFO'S PLANS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMISSION, IN ITS EXPANDED FORM(56 MEMBERS) HELD ITS FIRST MEETING AUGUST 7 AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE. MAJOR GENERAL JOSHUA HAMIDU, CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF AND NUMBER TWO OFFICER ON SMC, ADDRESSED THE GROUP AT THIS ITS FIRST MEETING SINCE HEAD OF STATE AKUFFO'S JULY 31 ANNOUNCEMENT OF SMC PLANS FOR A TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (AACRA 6220). HAMIDU TOLD THE COMMISSION THEY ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP A WORKABLE DOCUMENT WHICH WILL PREVENT DICTATORSHIP, PROVIDE GOOD ADMINISTRATION AND CATER TO THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS OF ALL GHANAIS. HAMIDU STRESSED THAT DECISION ON TRANSITIONAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ACCRA 06468 091451Z

GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN IN LINE WITH SMC POLICY TO SEEK THE WIDEST POSSIBLE NATIONAL CONSENSUS AND TO PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION, WITH A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD TO GIVE BREATHING SPACE IN WHICH GHANAIS WOULD BE ABLE TO SEARCH FOR A VIABLE AND DURABLE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

3. IN SPECIALMEETING SAME DAY, GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION

FORMALLY OPPOSED CONCEPT OF TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND CALLED FOR DISSOLUTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMISSION. ASSOCIATION DECIDED NOT TO NOMINATE A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION, CONTENDING THAT TNG IS A DISGUISED VERSION OF UNION GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD, BAR ASSOCIATION CALLED ON SMC TO FOSTER FORMULATION OF A GOVERNMENT BASED ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND TO SET UP A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IMMEDIATELY TO DECIDE THE FUTURE FORM OF GOVERNMENT USING THE 1969 CONSTITUTION AS A WORKING MODEL. FINALLY THE ASSOCIATION CALLED FOR DISMISSAL OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DR. GUSTAV KORENTENG-ADDOW IN WHOM IT HAD LOST CONFIDENCE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE SMC IS SINCERELY LOOKING FOR A METHOD TO AVOID WHAT IT CONSIDERS THE DYSFUNCTION OF BITTER POLITICAL PARTY STRIFE WHICH AS PLAGUED GHANA IN THE PAST. THIS IS A FEELING SHARED BY MANY MILITARY OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS TOO. THUS ITS BAN ON POLITICAL PARTY PARTICIPATION IN THE TNG. THE SMC SEEMS TO BE SEARCHING FOR A FORM OF GOVERNMENT DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD THAT WOULD OPERATE ABOVE THE SPECIAL INTERESTS DICTATED BY PARTY POLITICS AND SOMEHOW REPRESENT THE GHANAIAAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. ITS MEMBERS APPARENTLY FEAR THAT THE NATIONAL MATURING IS NOT SUFFICIENT AT THIS TIME TO WITHSTAND THE EVILS THAT POLITICAL PARTIES CAN BRING OUT IN THE GHANAIAAN PEOPLE.  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ACCRA 06468 091451Z

5. ON THE OTHER HAND WE SENSE A GROWING FEELING, DEMONSTRATED BY THE GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION'S LATEST RESOLUTIONS, THAT TNG IS A DISGUISED FORM OF THE DETESTED CONCEPT OF "UNION GOVERNMENT". AFTER SIX YEARS OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE, A GROWING NUMBER OF POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS GHANAIAANS SEEM EAGER FOR AN IMMEDIATE LIFTING OF THE BAN ON POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY. THE JULY 5 PALACE COUP LIFTED THE LID AND THEY NOW EXPECT FAR-REACHING AND IMMEDIATE POLITICAL CHANGES. WE ANTICIPATE THIS PRESSURE WILL CONTINUE TO MOUNT AS THE RECONSTITUTED SMC STRUGGLES TO MEET THE VAST ARRAY OF PROBLEMS WILLED TO IT BY THE ACHEAMPONG REGIME.  
HOLMES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ACCRA06468  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780327-0079  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ACCRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780880/aaaacoum.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 58ceea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1786350  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BAR ASSOCIATION CRITICIZES SMC AS CONSTITUTIONAL COMMI- SSION MEETS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, GH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/58ceea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014